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Braintree Rural District

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

W. J. MOFFAT

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1946

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Braintree Rural District

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Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Braintree Rural District for the year 1946.

During the whole of 1946, Dr. A. Turner continued in the appointment of Acting Medical Officer of Health pending my return from service with H.M. Forces.

The health of the District has been good and the death rate has been low. Compared with the immediately previous years, the birth rate has been high.

The preparation of schemes to provide much-needed housing accommodation in the District was one of the Council's main activities during the year. There is much old property in the District which, for lack of alternative accommodation, is still occupied, although well below standard. Such property is in urgent need of replacement. Much effort will be required for several years to come to raise the standard of housing in the District to a modern level, as well as to relieve the overcrowding which exists by reason of two families having to occupy one dwelling.

It is to be hoped that, in the near future, piped water supplies will be available for the parish of Faulkbourne and those parts of the parishes of Fairstead and Wethersfield which up to now have had to rely on wells and springs, not all of which have been altogether satisfactory.

The Council have received a preliminary report from their Consultant Engineers on the proposed sewerage scheme for the Northern Area. As development proceeds in this area the need for such a scheme will become more pressing

The Council, during the year, had decided to institute a regular house-to-house collection of household refuse for the whole District instead of the restricted service hitherto in operation.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the help and support from the members of the Council and of the co-operation so freely given by the Council's Officers to Dr. Turner during the period of my absence on war service from 1942 to 1946.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

General Statistics

Area (in Acres)	59,569
Estimate of Resident Population in mid-1946	17,170
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books ...	5,361
Rateable Value	£57,735
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£238

Social Conditions.—There has been no change of any note since 1939.

There has been no unemployment problem.

Vital Statistics

It was not feasible during the war years to publish annual figures, but the opportunity is now taken to present certain of the Vital Statistics for the years 1939-46 inclusive.

The Vital Statistics relating to estimated mid-year populations of the District, Birth Rates and Death Rates, local and national, for each year from 1937 to 1946 are given in Table I.

In Table II are set out the Causes of death according to the figures supplied by the Registrar General for the period 1939-46. The figures for 1939 have, as far as is possible from local knowledge, been assigned to the Abridged List of Causes of Deaths used by the Registrar General from 1940 onwards, and as set out in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death in 1938.

Table III gives the deaths occurring in the various age groups of Residents of the District in the years 1939-46, whether these deaths took place inside or outside the District.

Table IV contains extracts from the Vital Statistics of the District relating to Live Births, legitimate and illegitimate, Still Births and Death Rates of infants, legitimate and illegitimate under one year of age for the same period.

Vital Statistics of District for 1946 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated mid year	Births. Nett. Number	Births. Nett. Rate.	Births. Nett. Rate England & Wales.	Deaths. Total number registered in District.	Deaths. Transferable. of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths. Transferable. of Residents not registered in District.	Deaths. Nett. Under 1 year of age. Number.	Deaths. Nett. Under 1 year of age. Rate per 1000 nett Births.	Deaths. Nett. Under 1 year of age. Rate England & Wales.	Deaths. Nett. At all ages. Number.	Deaths. Nett. At all ages. Rate.	Deaths. Nett. At all ages. Rate England & Wales.	Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths).
1937	15,660	232	14.8	*14.9*	160	14	76	12	51	*58*	222	14.1	*12.1*	10
1938	15,580	168	10.8	*15.1*	155	11	91	7	41	*53*	235	15.1	*11.6*	— 67
1939	(a) 15,580 (b) 16,210	165	10.6	*14.8*	168	26	83	5	32.7	x *50*	225	13.9	*12.1*	— 60
1940	17,600	205	11.6	*14.1*	212	34	84	9	42.5	x *57*	261	14.8	*14.4*	— 56
1941	18,770	202	11	*13.9*	205	43	67	5	24.3	x *60*	229	12.2	*13.5*	— 27
1942	18,230	247	13.5	*15.6*	179	34	72	4	16.2	x *51*	217	11.9	*12.3*	30
1943	18,000	266	14.7	*16.2*	182	24	85	12	45.1	x *49*	243	13.5	*13.0*	23
1944	17,580	275	15.6	*17.7*	216	84	81	14	50.9	x *45*	213	12.1	*12.7*	62
1945	16,680	251	15.1	*16.1*	208	79	75	7	27.9	x *46*	204	12.2	*12.7*	47
1946	17,170	302	17.6	o *19.1*	259	107	84	6	19.9	x *43*	236	13.7	o *11.5*	66

(a) For calculation of Birth Rates.

(b) For calculation of Death Rates and Notifiable Disease.

x Rate per 1000 "Related" Births.

o Provisional.

TABLE II.

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and th classification is given under the new abridged list of causes of death as used in Englan and Wales contained in the Manual in the International List of Causes of Death.

Cause of Death.	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M
Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	-
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	-
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—	4	4	5	6	—	4	6	2	3	1	2	3	
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	-
Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	-
Influenza	—	3	3	3	1	2	—	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	-
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M) uterus (F)	5	1	4	2	1	—	3	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	
Cancer of stomach or duodenum	4	5	3	4	5	4	5	3	4	1	1	3	4	2	
Cancer of breast ...	—	—	—	4	—	5	—	6	—	4	—	2	—	4	
Cancer of all other sites ..	10	5	10	9	11	15	8	13	9	18	11	12	12	16	
Diabetes	4	2	—	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	1	2	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	5	10	20	12	9	9	16	18	16	20	16	11	16		
Heart disease	32	36	30	42	30	28	32	27	27	25	21	43	23	25	
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	9	2	3	—	3	1	1	6	4	2	1	3	1	
Bronchitis	3	5	10	6	8	4	8	9	5	4	3	5	5	5	
Pneumonia	3	2	7	2	9	4	4	2	6	2	7	3	4	2	
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3	2	1	4	—	—	1	3	2	3	1	1	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	—	
Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Appendicitis	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Other digestive diseases	—	4	3	4	—	4	4	2	—	2	2	6	4	4	
Nephritis	3	4	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other maternal causes ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Premature birth ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	1	4	2	—	—	1	
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disease	—	2	4	1	1	—	1	1	4	2	5	1	5	3	
Suicide	—	—	4	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	
Road traffic accidents ...	3	—	5	1	3	2	2	—	3	1	3	1	4	—	
Other violent causes ...	5	1	4	—	2	—	3	—	5	1	3	3	1	1	
All other causes ...	21	18	7	20	17	20	13	11	20	18	10	14	14	11	
All causes	114	111	131	130	112	117	113	104	122	121	93	120	100	104	1

TABLE III.

Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.

	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75 and upwards
1939	225	6	1	1	3	1	5	9	15	30	65	89
1940	261	9	1	2	3	8	10	9	14	32	68	105
1941	229	6	2	3	3	5	4	13	14	26	47	106
1942	217	4	1	—	—	3	3	4	13	30	70	89
1943	243	12	—	—	1	6	8	9	11	41	69	86
1944	213	14	2	1	2	1	4	2	7	31	52	97
1945	204	7	—	1	1	5	4	9	14	32	51	80
1946	236	6	1	—	2	—	9	4	12	26	58	118

TABLE IV.

Extracts from Vital Statistics 1939-46 inclusive.

Year	Live Births							Still Births				Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age	
	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population				Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still Births)	Legitimate per 1000 Legitimate Live Births	Illegitimate per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births
Year	Total	M	F.	Total	M	F.		Total	M.	F.			
1939	155	80	75	10	6	4	10 6	6	4	2	37.3	25.6	200
1940	198	101	97	7	4	3	11.6	6	4	2	28.4	34	286
1941	187	106	81	15	5	10	11	4	3	1	19.4	26 2	—
1942	233	124	109	14	5	9	13.5	9	4	5	35.2	17.2	—
1943	251	143	108	15	6	9	14.7	9	7	2	32 8	35.9	333
1944	250	128	122	25	14	11	15.6	9	3	6	31.7	40	160
1945	220	112	108	31	19	12	15 1	6	3	3	23.4	27.3	167
1946	275	138	137	27	11	16	17 6	4	2	2	13.1	16.6	37

General provision of Health Services

Public Health Officers

For list see Page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Braintree and Witham and the Rural District of Dunmow, and Assistant Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

The Depnty Chief Sanitary Inspector was appointed Cleansing Superintendent to the Council as from 29th May, 1946.

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological laboratory service is provided by the Essex County Council in agreement with the Ministry of Health. The laboratory serving the District is that at Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley.

Examinations of foodstuffs, including ice cream, water supplies and sewage effluents are carried out by the Counties' Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and of milk supplies by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle. All of these arrangements are under the control of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

A motor ambulance is provided at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, for the conveyance of cases of general sickness and accident.

Cases of infectious disease in the Distrtct are transported by the motor ambulance belonging to the Braintree Joint Hospital Board. This ambulance is stationed at the Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, Braintree.

The motor ambulance belonging to Witham Urban District Council is also available for those parts of the Rural District near to Witham.

The ambulance services have shown themselves to be adequate for the needs of the District. Under the Essex County Council's arrangements, co-ordination of ambulance services in adjoining districts is secured.

Hospitals

The William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, provides 25 beds for cases of general sickness and accident and a further 10 beds for maternity cases.

The Isolation Hospital at Cressing Road, Braintree, remained closed during the year owing to staffing difficulties. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease from the District is obtained at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Colchester.

The Social Welfare Department of Essex County Council provide accommodation for cases of chronic sickness and infirmity at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

The general hospitals at Chelmsford and Colchester, and the Essex County Hospital, Black Notley, admit cases from the Rural District.

Sanitary circumstances of the Area

WATER

Piped water supplies serve the whole of the Rural District with the exception of the parishes of Faulkbourne and Marks Hall and parts of the parishes of Fairstead, Black Notley and Wethersfield. The Council's Waterworks at Petches Bridge, Finchingfield, serve the Northern Area (parishes of Bardfield Saling, Finchingfield, Great Bardfield, Great Saling, Panfield, Rayne, Shalford and Wethersfield). The Council's Waterworks at Coggeshall supply the parishes of Great and Little Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon, but supplementary supplies have to be obtained from the South Essex Water Company's mains. The parishes of Hatfield Peverel and Terling obtain their supply from the Council's Waterworks at Terling. The parishes of Black Notley, Bradwell, Cressing, Pattiswick, Stisted and White Notley are supplied from the South Essex Water Company via the Water Tower at Cressing.

The water supply has been satisfactory during the year as regards quantity and quality.

Normally the quality of the raw water and of the water as supplied to consumers is controlled by regular bacteriological and chemical examination. No reports are available for 1946.

All of the main water supplies in the District are subject to chlorination at the respective sources. In the case of the Council's undertakings, gaseous chlorine is employed at Petches Bridge Works and hypochlorite solution at Coggeshall and at Terling.

No action was required in respect of any form of contamination during the year. The waters are not likely to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The Surveyor has supplied the following information with regard to the functioning of and water supplied from each of the sources of public supply.

Petches Bridge Works

During the year the additional works which had been installed by the Air Ministry, namely, the softening plant and the iron removal plant, were taken over by the Council. The plant, after some initial difficulty, now appears to be working satisfactorily. Lime and sodium aluminate are the agents employed in the processes. The dosage of lime and sodium aluminate is controlled by regular sampling of the water. Periodical analyses are also made for this purpose by Imperial Chemical Industries. The disposal of the lime sludge from the works is presenting a problem. At present it is deposited in small quantities in the lagoons alongside the works.

In the year ending 31st March, 1947, the amount of water pumped from these works was 39,836,000 gallons. Of this total, 18,902,500 gallons were for military purposes and 5,772,500 gallons were metered supplies for trade and agricultural purposes. The rate of domestic consumption was 18 gallons per head per day of the population supplied, that for trade and agricultural purposes 6.84 gallons per head per day.

In the Northern Area there were 43 new connections to the mains in the year.

Coggeshall Waterworks

There has been a further drop in the pumping level of the water in the bore, which now stands at 57 feet below the surface. It is becoming increasingly necessary to rely on supplementary supplies from the South Essex Water Company to meet the demand from that part of the District which is served by these works.

The average day's pumping throughout the year was 16.6 hours and this produced 41,974,000 gallons. Supplementary supplies from the South Essex Water Company amounted to some 19,000,000 gallons. The trade and agricultural demand was 5,452,000 gallons, which is a rate of 2.8 gallons per day per head of population served. The domestic consumption was 29 gallons per head per day throughout the year.

Two new connections were made to the mains on this system during the year.

Terling Waterworks

The amount pumped into supply from these works in the year was 17,167,000 gallons and to produce this, pumping was necessary for an average of 6.3 hours daily. Trade and agricultural purposes took 1,579,000 gallons. The rate of consumption for domestic purposes was 21 gallons per head per day, while that for trade purposes, including agriculture, was 2.1 gallons.

There were seven new connections to the mains from these works in 1946.

It is to be noted that the sources of supply for these works are shallow springs whose course underground is not accurately known. The purity of the water has occasionally been below standard and the collecting chamber is liable to flooding. Despite the fact that the water is subjected to continuous chlorination and storage before passing into supply, these works cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and the possibility of obtaining an alternative supply for this part of the District should be examined as soon as possible.

South Essex Water Company

The amount obtained from this Company's main during the year ending 31st March, 1947, was 103,882,000 gallons, of which 19,000,000, as already mentioned, were supplied to the Coggeshall and Kelvedon area. Of the metered supplies from this system, 30,745,000 gallons were supplied to Service Departments, and 11,592,600 gallons to Witham Urban District Council, while 16,940,000 gallons were taken by Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley, and 1,156,000 gallons by Essex County Council Hospital, Stisted Hall. The demand for other trade and agricultural purposes was 1,445,000 gallons or a daily rate of 2.4 gallons per head of population supplied. The amount available for domestic consumption was 23,000,000 gallons, and the average rate of consumption was estimated at 38.1 gallons per head per day.

In this system 16 new connections were made to the mains in 1946.

The average rates of consumption referred to above are based on the actual population served. Although not strictly comparable with the figures given for previous years, the rates are increasing, a tendency which can be expected to continue as more facilities for the use of water are provided and as the building of modern houses in the District progresses.

Details of the number of dwelling houses and of the approximate numbers of the population supplied in the various parishes from the Council's public water mains by services laid on inside dwellings or by standpipe are given in the table on page 13

Shallow Wells

The number of public shallow wells and water supplies under the control of the Rural District Council has been reduced from 47 in 1938 to 30 in 1946. Progressive reduction in the number of these supplies is taking place as the water mains extend through the District and the number of new connections to the main increases.

These shallow water supplies are unsatisfactory in that the yield is unreliable and the quality of the water not always of the standard which it should be, in that the sources are liable to contamination. One of these sources at Black Notley failed during the year.

The position with regard to the number and location of these public supplies was as set out below at the end of 1946.

Parish.	*Wells and Springs*
Great Bardfield ...	1 well at Braintree Road (Hall Villas), 1 spring at Brook Street.
Bradwell	2 wells at The Street.
Cressing	2 wells at Tye Green and Hawbush Green.
Fairstead	3 wells, 2 at Fuller Street, 1 at Ranks Green.
Faulkbourne ...	1 well at Pump Bungalow.
Finchingfield ...	5 wells at Vicarage Road, Hawkins Harvest, Ost End, Howe Street and Bardfield Road.
Black Notley ...	2 wells at The Green and Bakers Lane
White Notley ...	1 well at The Street, 1 spring at The Green.
Panfield	2 wells at Shalford Road and The Village.
Pattiswick	1 well at Council Houses.
Bardfield Saling ...	1 well at Pollard Villas.
Great Saling ...	1 well at Blake End.
Shalford	1 well at Jaspers Green.
Stisted	1 well opposite Bridge Hall.
Wethersfield ...	4 wells at Silver Street, Blackmore End, Beazley End, Brick Kiln Green.

Domestic Water Supplies.

Parish	Total in District		Main Supply in House		Standpipe Supply	
	No. of Houses	Estd. Pop'n	No of Houses Served	Estd. Pop'n Served	No of Houses Served	Estd. Pop'n Served
Great Bardfield	292	826	102	326	21	67
Bradwell	70	227	31	99	7	22
Great Coggeshall ...	778	2382	452	1446	298	954
Little Coggeshall ...	108	358	68	218	31	99
Cressing	237	719	119	381	7	22
Fairstead	81	248	11	35	2	7
Faulkbourne	40	149	—	—	—	—
Feering	303	971	245	784	19	61
Finchingfield	395	1085	209	669	15	48
Hatfield Peverel ...	657	2010	460	1472	29	93
Kelvedon	570	1930	426	1363	102	326
Marks Hall	10	26	—	—	—	—
Black Notley	197	978	61	195	4	13
White Notley	125	467	38	122	3	10
Panfield	103	323	56	179	5	16
Pattiswick	74	223	23	74	9	29
Rayne	226	652	50	160	3	10
Bardfield Saling ...	69	227	19	61	5	16
Great Saling	77	217	13	42	13	42
Shalford	191	534	94	301	—	—
Stisted	196	751	108	346	31	99
Terling	242	864	108	346	25	80
Wethersfield	320	1003	103	330	13	42
TOTALS ...	5361	17170	2796	8949	642	2056

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's sewage disposal works functioned reasonably satisfactorily during the year. There is evidence that, in some cases, improvements or enlargements to some of the works will soon be necessary as the quantity of sewage with which they have to cope increases year by year.

The Surveyor has given the following information with regard to each of the Council's undertakings.

Coggeshall Sewage Disposal Works

Although additional sludge lagoons have been provided, the load to these works is increasing to such an extent that further improvements will soon be required. The daily average flow to the works was 95,000 gallons.

Four samples of the effluent from these works were taken during the year by Essex County Council. Three of these samples were reported upon as being satisfactory, the fourth was a border-line effluent.

In periods of heavy rainfall some of the main sewers at Coggeshall surcharge and flooding has occurred from sewer manholes.

Kelvedon Sewage Disposal Works

These works suffered adversely through the admission to the sewers of the trade effluent from the Gas Works. The question of the exclusion of this effluent was being considered at the end of the year. The works have been satisfactorily maintained.

The average flow to the works during the year was 76,170 gallons per day.

Of two samples of the effluent analysed during the year, one was satisfactory and the other unsatisfactory.

Hatfield Peverel Sewage Disposal Works

Owing to the limitations of the plant at these works it is difficult to maintain a satisfactory effluent. The problem of improvements to this works is bound up with the possibility of leading the proposed main sewer from Terling into the works.

It is not possible to estimate the flow to these works.

Out of the three samples of the effluent taken from these works in 1946, two proved to be satisfactory, the other unsatisfactory.

White Notley Sewage Disposal Works

These works, the most modern of the Council's works, functioned satisfactorily and well within the designed capacity.

The average flow per day to these works was 65,100 gallons during the year.

Two samples of the effluency from these works were taken during the year and both were satisfactory.

Other Sewage Disposal Works

There are four other sewage disposal works in the Rural District which were constructed by the Service Departments during the war, and are still maintained by them. Those at Saling, Marks Hall and Wethersfield all yielded satisfactory effluents when samples were taken for analysis, but that at Finchingfield P.O.W. Camp gave three unsatisfactory results out of three samples taken.

The Rural District generally is not well sewered. There are no proper sewers nor disposal works in the whole of the Northern Area (apart from the works built by Service Departments for their own installations). Populated areas in the Southern Area, such as Stisted, Bradwell and Terling, are also without sewerage systems, although all of these areas have now had piped main water supplies for ten years or more. There are unmistakable signs that the uneasy equilibrium existing between water supply and sewage disposal in such areas is becoming upset, a process which will become progressive and which, combined with the difficulties of night soil collection, will not make the need for sewerage schemes for the unsewered parts of the District any less urgent as time goes on.

The Council have received a preliminary report from their Consulting Engineers on a proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the Northern Area. Alternative schemes for Terling were prepared in 1936, but no progress has so far been made. No scheme has as yet been prepared for Stisted and Bradwell.

Rivers and Streams

Pollution of rivers and streams in the Rural District occurs at Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Great Bardfield and Terling.

Public Cleansing

During the year reorganisation and extension of the system of refuse collection in the District took place. A beginning was made in clearing the salvage dumps in the various parishes not covered by the house-to-house collection.

The system of night soil collection by contractors continued in the parishes of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Stisted and part of Rayne, but it becomes increasingly difficult to find contractors who can be relied on to do this work satisfactorily.

Details of the scheme of Public Cleansing in the area will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Details of visits and inspections and work done generally under this head will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfestations

There were no cases of infestation by bed bugs brought to light during the year. Several minor infestations by fleas were dealt with.

Rats and Mice

The Council began the operation of the scheme for rodent control under the Ministry of Food N.S. 12 scheme for the eradication of rodent infestations in residentlal properties. This scheme resulted in a larger number of infestations being brought to light and dealt with than would otherwise have been the case. Notes on the operation of the scheme in the District are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It is to be regretted that this free domestic service will cease in 1947, when reversion will have to be made to the previous cumbersome administrative measures of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act of 1919.

Factories Act

There are 92 premises in the Rural District registered under the above Act. Of these 92, there are 65 with mechanical power and the Council are only concerned with the provisions of the Act relating to sanitary accommodation. In the case of the 27 factories without mechanical power the Council are, in addition, responsible for other measures relating to health, *i.e.*, the provisions as to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors.

Eleven inspections were carried out. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

With regard to outworkers, there were no instances of outwork being performed in unwholesome premises.

HOUSING

At the outbreak of war, when work on housing and rehousing practically ceased, there were approximately 130 families due to be rehoused as a result of proceedings under the Housing Acts. These families continued in occupation of these condemned properties. The majority of such cases still remain to be dealt with.

It is estimated that, at the end of 1946, there were approximately a thousand sub-standard houses still in occupation in the District, including houses the subject of Demolition Orders or undertakings not to re-let made before the war. There were 66 families occupying condemned property which had been requisitioned by the Council to meet the demand on them to house homeless persons coming into the District from other areas during the war. Some forty of these families who had come from other areas during the war under the Government Evacuation Scheme still remained and the majority of these had indicated that they wished to remain in the District. The responsibility for housing these families has now fallen upon the Rural District Council.

The total number of applications received for Council Houses is now in the region of 500 and is constantly being increased. About four-fifths of the applications are from families who do not have separate dwellings of their own.

At the end of the year the Council had under construction 18 traditional-type houses. They were sited throughout the District as follows :—

Hatfield Peverel ...	4	Shalford ...	2
Kelvedon	4	Coggeshall ...	4
Terling	2	Cressing ...	2

In addition, tenders had been approved for a further 22 houses to be erected, 14 at Cressing, 4 at Kelvedon and 4 at Shalford. Sites for housing schemes in other parts of the District had been obtained in some instances and were the subject of negotiation in others.

Application was made to the Ministry of Health for possession of the Sick Quarters site at Great Saling airfield for housing purposes. A scheme was prepared to convert the buildings into seven private dwellings. Work to this end was in hand at the end of the year.

One house in the District had been completed by private enterprise in 1946.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Essex County Council are the authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders for the licensing of premises and for the production of designated milk. Before a licence is granted all premises are brought up to the standard of fitness required by the Rural District Council under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order.

Producers with premises in the Rural District who are licensed by the County Council are as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested ...	28
Accredited	29

There are now 107 premises in the Rural District concerned in the production and sale of milk. Inspections of 88 of these premises were made during the year. Details will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat

Under the Ministry of Food's scheme for centralised slaughtering, no premises in the Rural District have been used. The Ministry's slaughterhouses at Braintree and Witham serve the needs of the District. No claim is made on the time of the Inspectors for meat inspection at slaughterhouses. Meat is inspected at butchers' shops in the District.

There were 60 cases of food poisoning notified in the District in July and August. In the majority of cases the vehicle concerned was found to be meat, contaminated by salmonella aertrycke, which had been distributed from the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse at Witham.

Other Foods

A list of the other foods which were condemned as unfit for human consumption by the Council's Inspectors during the year is given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Ice Cream

Under section 158 of the Essex County Council Act of 1933 there were two manufacturers and eight vendors of ice cream registered in the Rural District in 1946. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in the Rural District is now reduced to 22. The condition of these was satisfactory, only minor defects being discovered.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of cases of notifiable disease other than tuberculosis and infective hepatitis during the year was as set out in the table on page 21.

The cases of food poisoning were notified at the time of the outbreak of food poisoning in Witham Urban District and the surrounding area. The majority of the cases notified were persons who were customers of butchers' shops in the District, which shops received their meat supplies from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Witham. Dr. F. E. Camps, who undertook the investigation of the outbreak at the request of the County Medical Officer, has reported this outbreak in the Ministry of Health Monthly Bulletin for May, 1947.

Infective Hepatitis

This condition was made locally notifiable in the District, as part of the Eastern Region, in December, 1943, by the Jaundice Regulations of 1943. The following table shows the numbers and age distribution of the cases since the disease became notifiable.

None of the cases were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths from the disease.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
1943 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944 ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—
1945 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946 ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—	—

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

By 31st December, 1946, after the provision of free immunisation, either by the Council or by Essex County Council as the Welfare Authority for the area, had been in operation for six years, a total of 2,012 children then under the age of 15 years had completed a full course of immunisation under these auspices. Of that total 536 were in the age group 0—4 years and represent 42.5 of the child population in that age group. In the age group 5—15 years, 1,476 children, representing 66.2% of the estimated mid-year population in that age group, had been immunised.

It is known that many children are now being immunised privately by general practitioners in the District. The numbers cannot be ascertained, but it would be reasonable to estimate that some 15 to 20 per cent. of the 0—4 age group are now immunised annually in this way.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and of deaths from the disease in the District are set out in the Table below.

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1 ..	—	—		—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	7	4	1	1	2	1	—	—
35—45 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	11	6	6	4	3	1	—	—
	17		10		4		—	

At the end of the year there remained 109 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of the District. These were as follows :—

Males.		Females.	
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
33	**22**	40	**14**

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Infectious Hepatitis) Notified in 1946

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified.													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Number of Deaths
	At all ages.	At ages—years.													
		Under 1 year.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45...65	65 and over		
Whooping cough ...	11	2	4	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	1
Measles	157	3	6	7	15	10	92	15	6	2	1	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	188	6	10	7	17	10	97	17	7	13	3	1	—	12	2
Food poisoning	60														

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1946

To the Chairman and Members of

THE BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1946. During this first full year since the cessation of hostilities the abnormal conditions prevailing have made a return to settled routine impracticable, and normal inspectorial duties have been neglected in favour of the priority work of Housing. The Department has come to be regarded by the public as the channel through which applications for Council Houses and other accommodation should be made. Up-to-date information has been available, therefore, as to the housing needs of the District. It has been obvious that these needs could not be satisfied by the building resources of the area for several years. I have advocated, therefore, that immediate housing provision should be made as far as possible, by the conversion of huts and other buildings which have become redundant to military requirements, and on the instructions of the Council I have prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health schemes which would make 20 dwellings of this type available.

With the co-operation of the Surveyor, work was in progress by the direct labour of the Estate Department on 7 dwellings by the end of the year.

The housing survey required by Ministry of Health Circular 64/44 has been in progress throughout the year on the only lines possible with the staff available, that is a revisionary survey based on the detailed inspections of 1935-39, and subsequent records. The Southern Area was completed by the end of the year. There are many cases of extremely bad housing conditions in the District, and it appears that these must remain for some years, in view of the continued necessity of using as a dwelling almost any building which provides shelter from the weather.

The Department has continued to be responsible for the formalities of requisitioning, and the control and maintenance of requisitioned properties. These consist chiefly of cottages which were considered as unfit for habitation prior to 1939 and the work of keeping such property, even in a weatherproof condition, is continuous. Most of the families occupying these premises were homeless evacuees who have now to be regarded as this Council's housing responsibility. They are among the worst housed of the community.

I have been handicapped in travelling during the year by the Council being unable to operate a scheme for providing vehicles for their officials, and was dependant entirely on hired cars until July.

Nature and Number of Visits, Inspections, Etc.

Complaints received and investigated	96
Revisits and inspections of work in progress ...	214
Interviews with owners, builders and architects ...	103
Infectious disease enquiries	66
Disinfections carried out	3
Disinfestations carried out	2
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	148
Visits to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops ...	42
Inspection of Knacker's Yard	10
,, ,, Bakehouses	31
,, ,, Fish Friers' premises	12
,, ,, Ice Cream premises	16
,, ,, Factories and Workshops	11
Water samples taken	14
Drains tested	4
Attendances at Court	2
Schools inspected	1

Controlled Premises

Details of Inspection, Etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. Registered.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices Served.	Notices Complied with.	Legal Proceedings.
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	24	24	31	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cowsheds / Other Dairies and Milkshops ...	107	88	148	21	21	Nil
Slaughterhouses ...	16	16	42	Nil	Nil	Nil
Knacker's Yards ...	1	1	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
Offensive Trades ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Friers	3	3	12	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ice Cream Premises ...	10	10	16	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	92	5	11	5	5	Nil

Notices and Letters sent out

Informal Notices	41
Letters	525
Formal Notices	10
Outstanding Notices 31st December, 1946 ...	9

Meat Inspection

The Ministry of Food continues to control the slaughtering of animals at central slaughterhouses, none of which is in your District. Meat received by the retailers is inspected when the premises are visited, but no unsound meat has been found. No notices have been received from retailers, of suspected disease or other unsound conditions. A high standard of cleanliness prevails throughout the District in the meat trade.

Other Foods

663 tins of food of various types and a total of 287 lbs. of bacon, raisins, jam, prunes, fish, butter and cheese were condemned during the year and disposed of for animal feeding.

Cowsheds and Dairies

Total number of premises registered—31st December, 1946 ...	107
Premises registered for Production and Wholesale	67
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Retail	29
,, ,, ,, Retail only	11
,, licenced for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	26
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Accredited Milk	29

Close co-operation with the Essex County Council continued to be maintained. No premises were licenced under the Milk (Special Designations) Order by the Essex County Council unless they complied with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order (which is administered by this Council).

Dairymen have been handicapped by shortage of labour, unskilled labour and the difficulty of obtaining equipment and carrying out repairs. Under these circumstances I consider that milk traders have done their best in most cases to comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order. There has been no case which has called for the service of a Statutory Notice.

11 Cowsheds were limewashed following the service of informal notices.
6 Dairies ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
12 Cowsheds and Dairies were redesigned or otherwise brought up to a satisfactory standard.
2 New Cowsheds and Dairies have been built.

Housing

Procedure under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, has practically ceased in view of the urgency of providing as much living accommodation as possible. There were in the District a number of vacant condemned cottages which it would be an offence to re-let; 66 of these have been requisitioned and made habitable for the present emergency and are occupied. In addition, 11 other properties are requisitioned and used as dwellings.

Reports of unused dwellings have been investigated and on enquiries being made the dwellings have been re-let in seven cases. In nine cases the service of a Requisition Notice had the same result during the Statutory period before the Council could take possession.

The Council has requisitioned and subsequently secured control of eight houses during the year.

Housing Survey.

This Survey has proceeded along lines originally decided on and consists of a revision of existing housing records. The Parishes in the Southern part of the District were completed by the end of the year. The final report will show that there is still a very large proportion of low standard working class dwellings, which can be dealt with satisfactorily only by demolition or extensive reconditioning.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection.

During the first nine months of the year the collection of domestic refuse by direct labour took place over the Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering area only, as in previous years.

From 1st October, considerable re-organization took place; the collection in the above area was reduced to once every fortnight and the scheme extended to cover the remainder of the Parishes in the Southern Area—Hatfield Peverel being visited once every fortnight and the other Parishes once every four weeks.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in exercising proper supervision of the work, particularly as the Depot is situated at Coggeshall. It is desirable that when the Salvage and Refuse Collections can be merged and the house-to-house collection extended to the Northern area, the vehicles and personnel should be based on the Council's Depot at Bocking.

Night Soil Collection.

There was no extension of this scheme during the year and collections were made from Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Stisted, and part of Rayne only.

The service was maintained with considerable difficulty; the contractors responsible frequently having to be persuaded to continue the work. It is essential that an important public health service such as the removal of night soil should work smoothly and satisfactorily, and the only solution is the provision of sewers and the conversion of pail closets to water closets.

Shops Act, 1934

No action has been taken under this Act during the year.

Smoke Abatement

Observations of the few factory chimneys in the District have shown no cause for complaint or action.

Ice Cream Premises

The premises of Ice Cream manufacturers and vendors have all been inspected during the summer. No standard with which they must comply is laid down, but they are dealt with on the same lines as dairies.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

Rodent Control in the District was continued during the year under the special arrangements made by the Ministry of Food. No infestations of the reservoir type (over 100 rats) were found or reported, but 61 major (20—100 rats) and minor (1—20 rats) infestations were dealt with. In very few cases did re-infestation occur, and these were at premises where complete eradication is practically impossible owing to the prevailing conditions.

In addition, the sewers at Coggeshall were tested for the presence of rats, and following evidence of a slight infestation, a successful treatment was given.

A new house-to-house survey, covering the more densely populated Parishes, was in progress at the end of the year.

All treatments were carried out by a fully-trained Rodent Officer employed directly by the Council as and when his services were required.

Close co-operation was also maintained with the Pest Section of the Essex War Agricultural Committee, which carries out similar work on agricultural lands and property.

In conclusion, I record my appreciation of the co-operation of all other Departments, the interest taken by Councillors and the zeal and loyalty of my own Staff. With deep regret I refer to the death in December of Mr. J. F. Ryder, who had carried out the clerical work of the Department alone since 1941.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. FAIREY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.